

Message Text

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ACTION AGRE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 L-03 TRSE-00

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R 050730Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4670

USDA WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L 1051

ATHENS FOR AGATT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, OTRA, BU, US

SUBJECT: PROPOSED VISIT OF AGRICULTURE MINISTER OR DEPUTY
MINISTER

REF: SOFIA 0995

1. IN MEETING JUNE 2 WITH VISITING DAS LURS AND AMBASSADOR, DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE ISHPEKOV OFFICIALLY RESPONDED TO INVITATION FOR MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE VISIT TO US EXTENDED BY AMBASSADOR ON APRIL 3. HE STATED IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR THE NEW MINISTER TO VISIT THE US IN JUNE, AND PROPOSED ALTERNATIVELY SENDING FIRST DEPUTY MINISTER (WITH RANK OF MINISTER) VASIL TSANOV TO US IN FIRST WEEK OF JULY FOR VISIT OF A WEEK TO 10 DAYS. BULGARIANS ANTICIPATE AGREEMENT ON A JOINT STATEMENT BY THAT TIME, WHICH TSANOV WOULD SIGN IN WASHINGTON. IN ADDITION TO A FEW DAYS OF CALLS IN WASHINGTON, TSANOV WOULD LIKE TO VISIT AMERICAN FARMS AND ENTERPRISES, FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE MIDWEST. HE WOQD BE ACCOMPANIED BY THREE OR FOUR BULGARIAN EXPERTS IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUC-
TION, FOR EXAMPLE, PERHAPS THE DIRECTOR OF AN AGRO-
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INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX SPECIALIZING IN SOYBEAN PRODUCTION
AND PROCESSING.

2. AS PROPOSED BY ISHPEKOV, TSANOV VISIT WOULD SUBSTITUTE FOR A VISIT BY THE NEW MINISTER (GRIGOR STOICHKOV), BUT INSTEAD OF MODIFYING OUR INVITATION, WE ARE NOW IN THE POSITION OF REPLYING TO A BULGARIAN PROPOSAL TO SEND

AN AGRPCULTURAL DELEGATION HEADED BY TSANOV.

3. ISHPEKOV OUTLINED THREE PARTICULAR AREAS OF INTEREST TO TSANOV IN CONNECTION WITH SUCH A VISIT. THEY WOULD APPRECIATE A PROGRAM WHICH INCLUDED ATTENTION TO (1) SOY-BEANS - TECHNOLOGY OF CULTIVATIONKD PROCESSING (INCLUDING FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION); (2) CORN (MAIZE); AND (3) MECHANIZATION OF AGRICULTURE WITH RESPECT TO SUCH PRODUCTS AS "VEGETABLES, CORN, ETC."

4. ISHPEKOV ALSO STATED THAT HE WOULD "IN VERY NEAR FUTURE" PROVIDE BULGARIAN COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT JOINT STATEMENT PROPOSED BY THE AMBASSADOR ON APRIL 3. HE STATED THAT MANY POINTS IN IT ARE ACCEPTABLE, BUT THAT IT "DOESN'T FULLY CORRESPOND TO THE NEEDS OF THE SITUATION." NONE-THELESS, AS NOTED ABOVE, HE FORESEES NO DIFFICULTY IN NEGOTIATING A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE AGREEMENT DURING JUNE.

5. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE USDA REACTION TO THE PROPOSED TSANOV VISIT. AS INDICATED IN REFTTEL, WE BLIEVE THIS WOULD BE A DESIRABLE STEP, IF THE TIMING IS ACCEPTABLE TO USDA.
GARTHOFF

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